



SWARC NEWS-02/25

Notes from KO4ZFO (Rodney)

Dear SWARC members,

Thank you all for coming out to our February meeting. We had a good turnout this month and I appreciate everyone coming out to hear more about NC AUXCOMM. Over the coming weeks, I will be searching for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee. We will have our annual club elections in June, so please think about how you can contribute in keeping our club strong by running for an officer position. We have a lot of talented members and I look forward to seeing what others have to offer and how we can grow as a club. Also, we are in need of Net controllers. Many of our current control operators need a backup for times when personal & family needs arise. If you have never called a Net, we have plenty of opportunities to learn and hone your skills. Regardless, if you can only commit to one night a month or one night a week, we can use any help that we can find. RARSfest is also coming up and we need volunteers for the club table. We will not be having a vendor/sale table this year as there was not enough interest to justify paying for table. Since we rescheduled our club auction, we will do that later in the year, date to be announced.

Thank you for your support!



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Monthly Reminders

Please remember our fellow members who are dealing with various medical situations. Please reach out to these members. Even a phone call can brighten their day and give them encouragement through their recovery.

We ask you to keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Gary, KO4LQX, Kenny, KJ4CVK, Steve, KA0GMY, Al, WA3JJG, and Ken Castille, KN4GUS.

Steve, KA0GMY, continues to have health issues of various and sundry sorts so remember him and his family.

Gary Plante, KO4LQX, reports:

I've been doing okay and will be having more scans the 11th of this month. I have been having an allergic reaction from the immunotherapy that resulted in a migrating rash all over my body, which is very aggravating and driving me crazy. I was prescribed cortisone cream and it has helped greatly, but it is still a problem as the rash migrates and feels just like poison ivy; I guess that is a small price to pay if I can get it controlled.

Again, thanks for checking in,
Gary (Report from Richard Hall this week).

Kenny (KJ4CVK), has ongoing health issues and is now in an assisted living facility.

Al Kinnamon, WA3JJG, has some serious health and mobility issues.



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Ken Castille, KN4GUS, is still recovering from a knee replacement.

Lastly, I want to remind you that we are now taking online payments for dues and donations. We currently have a link on our website which allows you to pay your dues or make a donation. Please let us know when you pay online by emailing me, so that I can ensure your payment is marked either for dues or a donation.

Rodney
KO4ZFO

Notes from NW3U (Dave)

Hello SWARC Members,

I want to thank everyone who came out for the NC Auxcomm presentation at the latest meeting. Skywarn training for the March meeting has been confirmed.

There is a public service net at 7:00 pm on the last Wednesday of each month on the 146.64 repeater. You don't have to have been involved before to participate in the net; you can just listen in unless something said piques an interest with you.

Dave, NW3U

SWARC 5 February 2025 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in the usual place at the usual time. Thanks to all who brought food and goodies for us to eat. It was a larger crowd than usual, perhaps because of interest in the program!



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The meeting began at 7:03 pm with Pledge of Allegiance led by Brian, KK4BK. This was followed by introductions around the room and officer reports.

Attendees: Bill (KK4QDZ), Rodney (KO4ZFO), Richard (KR4LH), Phil (KZ4OE), Robert (KQ4GSA), Ron (K4AAA), Steve (WB4SMS), Dave, (NW3U), Rich (KZ4ET) and wife Jane, Dave (K4MSE), Donald (KN4OEY), Paul (KN4GNI), Christy (KJ4AEO), Brian (KK4BK), Matt (KE4NIP), Dean (WB4HSF), Robert (KQ4GSA), Steve (NC4SW), and the following guests: John (KM4EZK), Doug (N3LTV), Jack (K4WFJ), Dwayne (N4MIO), and Marty (W4MY). There were also about five or six others that I didn't get their callsigns since I had to leave early.

Old/Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Rodney presented some bills for ink and a computer battery needed by the CenCar VE Team that is sponsored by the club. Dave (NW3U) moved that reimbursement be approved to Richard (KR4LH); seconded and passed.

Program/Presentation

Guest Marty Young (W4MY) made a pitch for the NC QSO party that will occur on the 23rd of February. This is a day when all other entities will be seeking QSOs with folks in North Carolina.

Following Marty was Dwayne (N4MIO), the Auxcomm Central Branch Coordinator, who explained all of the training required, how one might be utilized/deployed, and numerous



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other facets of the emergency communication environment. He encouraged members to be active in WinLink and other alternate communication applications.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Christy Fernandini's report detailed income of \$15.00 in dues with expenses of \$12.35 comprised of an \$11.60 bank service fee and \$0.75 for Square charges. Balance of \$2,675.87 with obligated funds as noted in new business.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm more or less.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Hall KR4LH
Secretary and Newsletter Editor

Public Service

Dave Krum announced that the season resumes in 2025 on March 1 with the Odyssey of the Mind competition at Wakefield High School in Raleigh. If you would like to participate you may contact Kenn (NE4Y) at Kenn@ne4y.com. To learn more about the event itself, you can go to <https://ncome.org/>.

Check the HPSNC.org web site often for Public Service opportunities. The public service season is very active and events need volunteers. You may also get to public service events on the RARS and SWARC websites.



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MEMBERSHIP

You can bring a check or cash for dues to the next meeting or mail them to the club PO box and Christy will advise she has received them. Also, you can now renew online by contacting Christy and giving her the appropriate credit card info for the 'Square' account. Christy's email is christyfernandini@outlook.com. Make checks payable to South Wake ARC and send to South Wake ARC – PO Box 1565 – Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

NET REPORT

SWARC Group – January 2025

The monthly total of check-ins was 290—a very significant increase from last month! Note that **very few** net controls record their counts, so numbers could actually be higher than recorded. The newly instituted DMR net had 8 check-ins, but it only started late in the month.

If you are a net control, please try to document your check-ins so that we can justify the trustee's provision of the repeater for our nets and other uses. If you need help with the spreadsheet software, reach out to one of us and we will try to help.

- Saturday and Sunday evenings will be called by KO4ZFO & KR4LH
- KT4JR will call Monday evenings
- KN4OEY will call Tuesday evenings
- KK4BK will call Wednesday evenings except on meeting nights



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- KO4ZFO or a board member will call Thursday evenings
- Fridays will continue to be called by NC4MP
- And we need backups – JUST BECAUSE.

Please contact Rodney Warren (KO4ZFO) or Don Nicholson (KN4OEY), if you are interested in calling one or more nets. **If you are a scheduled net controller and you are not able to call your net, please reach out and ask someone else to call it for you!**

SWARC Mission Statement

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of its members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service. Refer to the SWARC web site for the Board of Directors/Officers and Appointed Positions.

LINKS (if you have other links that you want added, send them to me)

PRN

A Wide Area Digital Amateur Radio Network

www.ncprn.net

GigaParts

www.gigaparts.com

QRZ

www.qrz.com

Ham Radio Outlet HRO

www.hamradio.com



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Raleigh Amateur Radio Society RARS

www.rars.org

Johnson Amateur Radio Society JARS

www.jars..net

South Wake Amateur Radio Club SWARC

www.southwakearc.com

Carolina 440 Network

www.carolina440.net

North Carolina Packet

www.ncpacket.com

TARPN (Terrestrial Amateur Packet Radio Net)

www.tarpn.net

Useful Ham Info

www.torborg.com/a

Five County Ham Radio Enthusiasts

www.fivecountyhre.org



[John E. Ross, KD8IDJ](#), Editor | February 6, 2025



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Learning Opportunity - *On the Air Live*: "How to Use Your Handheld Radio"



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ARRL is helping members get the most out of amateur radio through *On the Air Live*, a monthly series of training sessions. The live events are hosted by ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, and offer a deep dive into topics hams will find useful. “We had a great crowd at January’s *On the Air Live*,” said Greene. “We showed folks how to get started in slow scan television (SSTV).”

The next *OTA Live* is February 25 at 8:00 PM EST and will be on the topic of “How to Use Your Handheld Radio.” [Registration in advance is required](#), but is free for ARRL members. If you can’t make the live event, a recording will be available in the [ARRL Learning Center](#).



ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, hosts *On the Air Live* each month

“*On the Air Live* is a perfect intersection of education and inspiration. We want participants to come away empowered and inspired to make the most of their involvement in ham radio,” said ARRL Education Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA.

The monthly events tie in with content from *On the Air* magazine, which will match the current subject matter of *OTA Live*. All ARRL members have digital access to *On the Air* and three other high quality magazines at www.arrl.org/magazines.

“We look forward to having members join us for *OTA Live*. The more, the merrier, and we hope to help get hams more involved in the hobby,” said Greene.



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Find *On the Air Live* and replays in the ARRL Learning Center at learn.arrl.org.



This Weekend: Orlando HamCation®

Visit the ARRL Booth at [Orlando HamCation®](#) 2025, hosting the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention. It is being held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, February 7-9, 2025, at the Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park, [4603 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida 32808](#).



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Orlando HamCation® starts tomorrow

Follow along for photos from Orlando HamCation on the ARRL Facebook page
www.facebook.com/share/1FQRXSNCrh/?.





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Training the Next Generation of Net Controllers

Amateur radio operators are known for their desire and unique ability to provide public service through communications. Whether activated for a severe weather event or a local event such as a marathon or ride, the utility value and versatility of the Amateur Radio Service is enjoyed by communities around the country. One critical aspect of coordinating the communications is the role of net controller. These key volunteers bring order to chaos and flow to information. It is a specialized skill that requires development, practice, and training.



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A capacity crowd fills the training room at Newington VFD Company #1.
[Sierra Harrop, W5DX, photos]

On February 1, [Connecticut volunteers](#) in the [Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#) held a



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training session. The session drew dozens of radio amateurs from around the state to a packed room in the Newington Volunteer Fire Department. The half-day course, led by ARRL Connecticut Section Manager Douglas Sharafanowich, WA1SFH, was dynamic and participatory.





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ARRL Connecticut Section Manager Douglas Sharafanowich, WA1SFH, served as an ARES District Emergency Coordinator for 13 years before being elected SM. He relies on that experience to pass along skills to new net control trainees.

Georg Papp, K1YBO, is a controller and Assistant Net Manager for the Western Connecticut (WESCONN) Traffic Net, a part of the [ARRL® National Traffic System® \(NTS®\)](#). It serves to flow messages into, out of, and throughout the state and to serve as a training net. He was excited to see the high number of attendees. "We always encourage new people to step up to volunteer for the net, and it helps provide a pathway for them," he said.

In the training, Sharafanowich highlighted examples of needing a robust group of trained Net Control Station (NCS) operators. "When a 'Black Sky' event takes place, it is rarely limited to an 8-hour shift. We will need trained NCS operators not only to provide for initial shift coverage, but also, we will need more NCS operators to cover following shifts," he said.

If you'd like to get involved as a net control station, talk with your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator or District Emergency Coordinator to express interest. You may also find NTS net resources in your area at nts2.arrl.org.

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Hurricane Watch Net Turning 60, Seeking Net Control Operators



The [Hurricane Watch Net](#) (HWN), founded on Labor Day weekend 1965, is celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2025. The net, known for relaying surface observations into the National Hurricane Center, is also seeking volunteers to serve as net control operators.

Net Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, reports HWN is preparing for what could be, yet again, an above-average hurricane season and that the net needs more amateur radio operators to help.

“We are starting early this year in preparations and looking to add more net control stations to our roster,” said Graves. “We are looking for dedicated new members willing to train to become net control operators (NCOs). While being bilingual is not a requirement, being fluent in Spanish and English or French/Creole and English is a plus.”

If you are interested in training to become a net control operator for the Hurricane Watch Net, please visit the net control information page, hwn.org/about-us/ncs_info.html.





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digirig a tidy digital modes interface

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Amateur Radio in the News

“[Amateur radio hobbyists tune in at winter field day](#)” / The Clark Fork Valley Press & Mineral Independent (Montana) January 29, 2025 -- *The Clark Fork Valley Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

“[Kent ham radio club tests emergency communications skills](#)” / Kent County News (Maryland) January 30, 2025 -- *The Kent Amateur Radio Society is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*



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ARRL Podcasts



On the Air

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Slow-Scan TV: Sending Pictures by Radio

Listen to the latest episode of the [On the Air](#) podcast. In preparation for the first *On the Air Live* interactive livestream that launched on January 28, we take a look at the topic: slow-scan TV (SSTV), a ham radio mode that allows you to use RF to send static images. Steve Ford, WB8IMR, author of "SSTV: When a Picture is Worth a Thousand Words" in the January/February 2025 issue of *On the Air*, joins the podcast to share the basics of this mode. Visit learn.arrl.org to register for the next *On the Air Live* session taking place Feb. 25th.



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ARRL Audio News

Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday. ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of amateur radio and ARRL, along with interviews and other features.

The On the Air podcast and ARRL Audio News are available on blubrry, iTunes, and Apple Podcasts.

[On the Air](#) | [ARRL Audio News](#)

In Brief...

Las Vegas, Nevada, [American Legion Paradise Post 149](#), along with members of the [40 & 8 Voice Club](#), will operate special event station NV7AL, February 19 - 24, 2025. The event celebrates the 76th anniversary of the United States, and the state of Nevada, receiving a 40 & 8 Merci Train boxcar in 1945. The [Merci Train](#) boxcar serves as a memorial to the Allies' participation in World War II. The car was called a "40 et 8" (40 and 8) because the French military rated it to carry 40 men or eight horses. There is a 40 & 8 Merci Train boxcar located in Boulder City, Nevada. To learn more, visit [Merci Train](#). The 40 & 8, a charitable honor society of American wartime veterans, was formed in 1920 by American Legionnaires. NV7AL will be operating at various times each day, primarily on 7.074, 7.250, and 14.000 MHz. A QSL card is available.

Announcements

The Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL), K4LMB, will host the 2025 SSB/CW/Digital YL-OM Contest from 00:00 UTC February 13 until 23:59 UTC February 14. All licensed amateur radio operators throughout the world are invited to participate. All bands except 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters may be used. Net and repeater contacts do not count. Participants may work up to 36 of the 48 hours. The contact procedure is simple. OMs (male hams) call "CQ-YL," and YLs (female hams) call "CQ-OM." For more information, complete rules, and awards, visit [Contests - Young Ladies Radio League](#).





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The ARRL Solar Report



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This image was taken on February 6, 2025. [Photo courtesy of NASA SDO/HMI]

Solar Update Report February 6, 2025

The sun was highly active on February 4 – 5. Potent sunspot region AR3981 remains active, producing 20 M class solar flares even though its flare productivity has decreased over the past 24 hours. The region has maintained its high potential beta-gamma magnetic configuration, but its delta region shows signs of shear. The region is becoming more prone to sudden releases of flares.

There have been several coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and even a solar tornado. Solar winds have decreased to normal levels in the past 24 hours, but moderate-to-high solar activity is expected over the next 24 hours beginning February 6.

The 10.7-centimeter solar flux remains at 215 and is expected to decrease to 210 February 7 – 8, then to 200 February 9 - 10.

Overall, the forecast calls for unsettled conditions to continue on February 6 with more activity on February 7.

For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](#) the ARRL Technical Information Service, read "What the Numbers Mean...", and [check out](#) the Propagation Page of Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA.

A propagation bulletin [archive](#) is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the [VOACAP Online for Ham Radio website](#).

Just Ahead in Radiosport

- February 8 - 9 -- CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest (digital)
- February 8 -- Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint (CW)



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- February 8 - 9 -- KCJ Topband Contest (CW)
- February 8 - 9 -- Dutch PACC Contest (CW, phone)
- February 8 - 9 -- SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (CW)
- February 8 - 9 -- OMISS QSO Party (phone)
- February 8 -- WAB 1.8 MHz Phone (Phone)
- February 8 -- RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest (CW)
- February 9 -- Balkan HF Contest (CW, phone)
- February 10 -- 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint (CW, phone)
- February 10 - 14 -- [ARRL School Club Roundup](#) (CW, phone)
- February 11 -- DARC FT4 Contest (digital)
- February 12 -- NAQCC CW Sprint (CW)
- February 12 -- RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data (digital)

Visit the [ARRL Contest Calendar](#) for more events and information



Upcoming Section, State, and Division Conventions

- February 7 - 9 | [Orlando HamCation](#), hosting the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention, Orlando, Florida
- February 8 | [Hendricks County Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Indiana Section Convention, Danville, Indiana
- February 14 -15 | [Yuma Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention, Yuma, Arizona



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Arizona

- February 22 | [HAM-CON](#), hosting the ARRL Vermont State Convention, Colchester, Vermont
- February 28 - March 1 | [BirmingHamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Alabama Section Convention, Trussville, Alabama
- March 7 - 8 | [Greater Houston HamFest](#), hosting the ARRL Texas State Convention, Rosenberg, Texas
- March 15 | [69th Annual St. Patrick's Day Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL West Texas Section Convention, Midland, Texas
- March 29 | [Central Dakota Amateur Radio Club Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL North Dakota State Convention, Bismarck, North Dakota
- April 5 | [RARSfest](#), hosting the ARRL North Carolina State Convention, Raleigh, North Carolina
- April 11-12 | [Green Country Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Oklahoma State Convention, Claremore, Oklahoma.

Remember to search the [ARRL Hamfest and Convention](#) Database to find events in your area.

Did You Know?

Last year, 65,000 ARRL members participated in at least one learning course on the ARRL Learning Center website. As an ARRL member, you can access the vast resources in the ARRL learning library to help hone new skills or refresh current ones. Discover all of the great learning resources available to you as an ARRL member by visiting www.arrl.org/learning-programs.



Members can access the Learning Center website by visiting learn.arrl.org.

Have News for ARRL?

Submissions for *The ARRL Letter* and ARRL News can be sent to news@arrl.org. -- John E. Ross, KD8IDJ, [ARRL News Editor](#)



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Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday.

The ARRL Letter is available in an accessible format, posted weekly to the [Blind-hams Groups.io](#) email group. The group is dedicated to discussing about amateur radio as it concerns blind hams, plus related topics including ham radio use of adaptive technology.

[NCJ -- National Contest Journal](#). Published bimonthly, features articles by contesters, letters, hints, statistics, scores, NA Sprint, and QSO parties.

[QEX -- A Forum for Communications Experimenters](#). Published bimonthly, features technical articles, construction projects, columns, and other items of interest to radio amateurs and communications professionals.

Free of charge to ARRL members...

[Subscribe](#) to the *ARES Letter* (monthly public service and emergency communications news), the *ARRL Contest Update* (biweekly contest newsletter), Division and Section news alerts, and much more!

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The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 51 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their profile at www.arrl.org/opt-in-out.



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